

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A disengageable interconnecting flooring system for use in forming a temporary or permanent flooring surface on top of a support structure from individual flooring panels, ~~the~~said system comprising:

two or more flooring panels and at least one connector track;

each~~the~~ flooring panels comprising a top wear surface and a bottom surface for contact with the support structure, the flooring panels being multidirectional and comprising at least three edges wherein all edges have identical recesses formed therein for receipt of at least one projection from the connector track, each of the flooring panels further including an outwardly tapering channel associated with each edge and extending substantially parallel to each respective edge, each channel being formed within the bottom surface, each channel includes a top portion and outwardly tapering walls extending from the top portion toward a bottom of the flooring panel such that the channel becomes wider as it extends from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel to create an opening which is wider at the bottom of the flooring panel than at the top portion of the channel;

the connector track comprising a base and a projection extending vertically from the base, the ~~said~~ projection shaped to be received in a disengageable vertical connected fashion into the recesses ~~grooves~~ of at least two panels to form a flooring surface completely consisting of the top wear surface of the flooring panels, the connector track further includes at least two protrusions extending vertically from the base, the protrusions are spaced apart from the projection and are located on either side of the projection beyond a lateral extent of the projection, each of the at least

two protrusions including a tapered surface shaped and dimensioned to fit with the channels of the flooring panel wherein the tapered surface includes a ramping first surface facing away from the projection such that the ramping first surface extends upwardly from the base at an acute angle permitting respective flooring panels to ride up the protrusion during assembly of the flooring system.

21. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the projection is further shaped to be received in a disengageable horizontal connected fashion into the recesses ~~grooves~~ of the flooringsaid panels.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the recesses extend substantially the entire length of the flooring panels.

24. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim ~~22~~20, wherein the channels extend substantially the entire length of the bottom surface of the flooring panels.

25. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector track.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 2220, wherein each the protrusion extends substantially the entire length of the connector track.

28. (withdrawn) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the distance from the base of the connector track to the top of the projection of the connector track is less than the distance from the bottom surface to the top wear surface of the flooring panels.

29. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the projection extends directly from the base of the connector track.

30. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the projection angularly extends directly from the base of the connector track.

31. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the projection is connected to the base of the connector track via a support extending vertically from the base.

32. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 31, wherein the projection angularly extends from the support extending from the base.

33. (currently amended) The system according to ~~of~~ claim 20, wherein the base of the connector track is shaped to rest on the support structure.

34. (withdrawn) The system of according to claim 33, wherein the projection further comprises a node extending therefrom.

35. (currently amended) The system of according to claim 20, wherein the base of the connector track is shaped to rest on the support structure.

36. (withdrawn) The system of according to claim 20, wherein the base of the connector track further comprises recesses therein, and the edges of the panels are shaped to be received in a disengageable horizontal connected fashion into the recesses of the base of the connector track.

37. (withdrawn) The system of according to claim 36, wherein the base of the connector track is shaped to rest on the support structure.

38. (withdrawn) The system of according to claim 20, wherein the projection of the connector track further comprises recesses therein, and the edges of the panels are shaped to be received in a disengageable horizontal connected fashion in the recesses of said projection.

39. (withdrawn) The system of according to claim 38, wherein the base of the connector track is shaped to rest on the support structure.

40-62 (canceled)

63. (new) The system according to claim 20, wherein each channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall and the second wall extend in opposite directions relative to a plane extending through a center of the top portion and perpendicular to a plane in which the flooring panel lies.

64. (new) The system according to claim 20, wherein each channel includes a first wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel and a second wall extending from the top portion toward the bottom of the flooring panel, and the first wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel and the second wall defines an obtuse angle relative the bottom of the flooring panel.

65. (new) The system according to claim 20, wherein each protrusion further includes a peak with the first surface and a second surface extending therefrom, the first surface extends from the peak toward the base of the connector track and the second surface extends from the peak toward the base of the connector track.

66. (new) The system according to claim 65, wherein the first surface and the second surface extend in opposite directions relative to a plane extending through a center of the peak and perpendicular to a plane in which the base lies.